

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 2-7, 10, 12-18, 21, and 23 remain in the application.

Claims 2, 4, 7, 10, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1, 8-9, 11, 19-20, and 22 have been cancelled. Claim 23 has been allowed.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 10, and 12-21, claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 12 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the features of claims 8-9 have been added to claim 12. Since claim 9 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in item 4 on page 4 of the Office action, claim 12 is now believed to be allowable. Since claims 13-18 and 21 are ultimately dependent on claim 12, they are believed to be allowable as well. Claims 19-20 have been cancelled. Claims 2-7 have been amended to be dependent on allowed claim 23 and are believed to be allowable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 4 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claim 9 would

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be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is noted that claim 9 has already been rewritten in independent form as claim 23 in the previous amendment.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 5 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claim 23 is allowed.

In view of the foregoing, an early issuance of a notice of Allowance of claims 2-7, 10, 12-18, 21, and 23 is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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Respectfully submitted,

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